

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

VOLUME XXX.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1913.

NUMBER 42

Have You Joined The Good Fellows Club and Done Your Share Towards Spreading Christmas Cheer?

PINCHED FOR CASH.

Ellinwood Bank in Temporary Financial Trouble—No One Will Lose.

The Citizens State Bank, of Ellinwood, one of the strong financial institutions of the county, temporarily closed its doors last Saturday morning on account of the inability of the bank to make collections which resulted in a shortage of cash.

Ed. L. Smith is the president and cashier of the bank and the heaviest stockholder, and it was upon his request that Bank Examiner Warren, of Pratt, came and took charge of the affairs of the institution for the time being.

The bank has a capital stock of \$15,000 with a surplus of \$25,500 and the deposits approximate \$115,000 and the outstanding loans \$152,000. The paper carried by the bank is said to be practically all good, and the only trouble was that collections were so slow that the cash reserve could not be kept up.

The news of the closing of the bank created but little excitement in Ellinwood or community, as the people who have known and dealt with Ed Smith for the last quarter of a century have implicit confidence in his integrity and judgment and no alarm was felt that anyone would be the loser. It is said that things are now assuming such shape that it is believed the bank will be again opened for business in a couple of weeks at the most.

A conversation with a number of the heaviest depositors reveals the fact that every one of them have all the faith possible in the bank and its management, and that when the same is again opened for business there will be no attempt made at a transfer of funds to other institutions and it is to be hoped that this will be the case. There has never been a banker in Barton county who has been of more assistance to the people of their community in times of need than has Ed Smith or a man who was more lenient or more accommodating in every way, and the people of Ellinwood and vicinity recognize this fact and are standing by him loyally in his temporary difficulty and which his hosts of friends all over the county sincerely hope will be of very short duration.

E. J. Eveleigh was over from Boyd Monday evening to attend Masonic lodge and remained over to attend to some business matters Tuesday.

Will Everett was in from Buffalo township Tuesday with a load of as fine alfalfa as was ever grown anywhere.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gruber were in from northwest of town Tuesday, visiting with relatives and friends and shopping for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wood are here from Colorado Springs for a holiday visit with relatives and friends.

PASSED MONEY BILL.

Second Great Administration Measure Wins in Senate 54 to 34.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The second great legislative achievement of the Wilson administration is the first nine and a half months of its existence was assured tonight when the Senate passed the Owen Currency Bill by a vote of 54 to 34.

Seven Republicans joined the Democrats in passing the bill. They were: Pointdexter of Washington, Crawford of South Dakota, Sterling of South Dakota, Norris of Nebraska, Jones of Washington, Perkins of California, and Weeks of Massachusetts.

The passage of the bill was entirely a personal victory for President Wilson. Nothing except the firm yet exact leadership of the President could have accomplished its enactment. At times the legislation was on the verge of failure as far as the immediate future was concerned and it was saved only by the determined position taken by Mr. Wilson.

As the character of the Currency Bill for which the administration would stand sponsor developed, there was first opposition to its immediate passage and then opposition to the bill itself. The enactment of an effective Democratic tariff bill was not difficult compared to putting through the character of a currency bill upon which the President insisted.

When it was introduced in the House, Oscar W. Underwood, the floor leader, who loyally fought for it, prophesied that before the bill would be voted upon, the great eastern financial interests would endeavor in every way to block its passage because of the fundamental principles upon which President Wilson insisted, that the government and not the banks should control the new system. As a final assault the interests threatened that the National banks of the country would refuse to go into the new banking system.

The closing hours of the struggle developed some surprises. One was the announcement by Sen. Hitchcock that having fought hard for the betterment of the bill and having been instrumental in forcing certain improvements, he was ready to support it. A greater surprise, however, came when Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, one of the best posted men on finance on the Republican side, admitted that the bill is 75 per cent good and perhaps 25 per cent bad. He announced that, therefore, he would vote with the Democrats.

Surprise was expressed also at the position taken by Senator LaFollette, who is usually less partisan than his Republican colleagues. The Wisconsin senator has had very little to say during the long debate on currency, but at the last moment he offered two amendments. One was to prohibit members of Congress from appointment to any place on the federal re-

serve board and from becoming directors in any member bank of the new system. The other was to prohibit interlocking bank directorates. The latter was rejected but the former was adopted.

Then Mr. LaFollette voted against the bill. Senator Bristow, of Kansas, said he would vote against it because it was fundamentally wrong, too heavy and would not remedy financial evils. He favored a central bank, but thought that a few cogent amendments to the Freeland-Aldrich Bill would have served better than the Administration Bill. Other Progressive Republicans stood with the regular Republicans, and the vote, except for the lining up of the seven Republicans and Progressives with the Democrats was along party lines.

The chief provisions of the Currency Bill were under the direction of the President by Representative Carter Glass and Senator Robt. Owen and were designed to head off any business reaction that the opposing interests might cause to follow the new Tariff Law. For that reason Mr. Wilson was especially desirous of having the currency measure enacted as soon as possible. He has strived to have the measure pass both houses of Congress in the extra session, but when it became known that would be impossible, the new Congress was instructed to devote its entire attention to currency until the Senate passed the bill.

A complete reform of the vast and complicated machinery of finance, of banking and currency will be ac-

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS, MAY THE DAY BRING YOU MUCH JOY AND HAPPINESS.

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The Attendance Was Small But Much Interest Was Manifested.

The meeting of the Barton County Farmers Institute held in the court house last Friday and Saturday was but poorly attended from the fact that on account of the very disagreeable weather it was impossible for many of the farmers to come from a distance, but a great deal of interest was manifested by everyone in attendance, and the sessions were a great success in the interchange of ideas and the new and progressive ideas in agricultural lines that were advanced by the various speakers. The talks by the institute workers sent out by the agricultural college at Manhattan were good, but were no more able than many of those by the home people, and as the ideas advanced by the speakers from here dealt with facts and conditions pertaining more to this particular locality than with general conditions they were undoubtedly of the greater benefit.

We are very strongly inclined to the belief that an institute by the agriculturalists of this county or community, which would be held monthly and at which the various ideas of our home people regarding agricultural, stock and general farm questions were exchanged and discussed, would be one of the very best moves which could be made towards the complete development of this great farming community and would accomplish a vast amount of good. We are not in the least prone to criticize the specialists in the various lines which are sent out by our agricultural college, but we believe the farmers generally would take greater interest in the movement than at present, and better results would naturally follow. The regular institutes could be held as at present, but the monthly meetings and the talks by the home people, many of whom are abundantly qualified to discuss all of the questions which the farmers desire information on, would be of vastly more benefit than the twice or three times a year sessions as at present. There is no farmer who would not gladly spend one day of time each month for this purpose and we believe that the plan would meet with their approval generally.

The corn and potato exhibits by the boys at the institute were wanting this year for reasons too evident to need explaining, but the showing in the girls department was better than usual. The following prizes were awarded:

Canned Fruit—1st, Olive Nickerson; 2nd, Dora Ludwig; 3rd, Hattie Schneider.

Jelly—1st, Olive Nickerson; 2nd, Edna McDonald; 3rd, Hazel Denbo.

Butter—1st, Louise Hiss; 2nd, Dora Ludwig; 3rd, Goldie Gaunt.

Bread—Olive Nickerson—no competition.

Apron—1st, Goldie Gaunt; 2nd, Hazel Denbo; 3rd, Louise Hiss.

The other articles exhibited in domestic art were unclassified and had no competition.

By looking at the above it would seem that the south side girls are taking a greater interest in this move for more general education than are those of any other part of the county. The girls in the other communities should wake up and see that the large share of the prizes does not go to one locality after this.

W. I. Coldin, of Sharpsburg, Iowa, is here to spend the Christmas holidays with his daughter, Mrs. Jim Townsley and family. A sister, Mrs. John Norris, of Belleville, Kans., and a niece, Elizabeth Cunningham, of Mankato, Kansas, are also here for a visit with Mrs. Townsley.

Harry Momyer came in from Dallas, Texas, the first of the week to spend the holidays here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Momyer and family. Harry is now one of the head men with the Southwestern Telephone Co., of Dallas, and has a fine position.

School District No. 69, southeast of this city, held a big Christmas entertainment on Tuesday afternoon, which was largely attended by the patrons of the district. There was a fine entertainment, Christmas tree and a big treat for all, and parents and scholars alike enjoyed a most pleasant afternoon.

Miss Clara Buckland is here from Hutchinson to spend the holiday vacation with relatives and friends.

HOME TALENT CONCERT.

A Fine Concert and Good Sum for the Welfare League.

The home talent concert given at the Elite theatre on Monday evening in connection with the regular program, was one of the finest entertainments ever given in the city.

The proceeds of the evening were for the benefit of the Public Welfare Association, and went to provide an abundance of Christmas cheer for the families of the city who otherwise might probably have spent a cheerless and unhappy day, and it is very gratifying to the ladies who worked so hard for the success of the enterprise that the response from the public was of so liberal a nature, as the theatre was well filled and a goodly sum was realized for the cause. Mr. Savage, who donated the entire proceeds of the evening towards the assistance of the movement, is especially deserving of praise and the others who assisted, both in a material way and by taking part in the program, but the real credit should belong to the ladies who were instrumental in starting the movement and pushing it to a successful conclusion.

The home talent program in its entirety was excellent, every number being a feature worthy of commendation, and not one who attended but felt that they had received full value for their money besides having the satisfaction of by their presence having helped to gladden the heart of some little tot, and of temporarily lightening the load from the shoulders of some fellow-man and of making him really believe that the Christmas time is a time of real "Peace on earth, good will towards men."

No doubt all people interested in the entertainment given at the Elite on Monday evening for the benefit of the Public Welfare fund are eager to know the result.

The sum cleared is \$74.75. In addition to this we were presented with a check for \$10, making \$84.75. But let us impress you with the fact that all services were donated.

Special thanks are due Mr. Savage, the newspaper men of the city, and the able talent that made the entertainment a success.—Committee of Athenian Club.

CRAZY MAN IN PAWNEE.

The Avery neighborhood, south of the river, was considerably worked up last Saturday night by the strange actions of a man who called at several houses without any apparent mission. After several households had been frightened by the stranger's irrational manner and acts, a number of the neighbors got together and rounded him up. He offered no resistance to the posse, merely saluting them with the remark, "If you are going to shoot me, shoot."

A message was sent to Sheriff Dexter about 10 o'clock, and the latter with the aid of Al. Wyllie and his machine, went out and brought the man in and lodged him in jail, reaching town about midnight.

The stranger gave his name as Wm. Blesker and as near as could be determined from his disconnected talk he comes from New York or Pennsylvania. Among other things he is "off" on is the subject of patents, claiming to have one to make water cold and keep it cold and another on how to keep a house cool. Nothing has been learned of him before he appeared at the south side home, and no one who has seen him has ever met him before. He will be taken to the asylum as soon as authority is received from Topeka.

—Larned Chronoscope.

W. H. Rice was over from Holington Monday evening attending the Masonic lodge and visiting with his many old friends. Mr. Rice was the leader of the Great Bend band some thirty-five years ago, and at that time Great Bend was their trading point entirely, although he lived several miles northwest of Holington. In speaking of the difference in the roads now and then, he says that a number of times he has made the trip for band practice on horseback and that from the Walnut creek east of Holington to this place there was more than once when the water was knee deep to the horse the entire distance.

Mrs. Will Westwood left for her home in Wichita Monday morning after a visit here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Schaefer and other relatives and friends.

THE DAY AFTER



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DR. CONNETT HONORED.

At the meeting of the Barton County Medical Society held in this city last Friday evening, Dr. A. H. Connett was honored by being elected to the presidency of the society for the ensuing year. When the society was first organized in this county several years ago, Dr. Connett was elected as its first president and his administration was one of the most successful in the history of the society. He is the oldest practitioner in the county, having been engaged in the practice of medicine in Great Bend for the past twenty-nine years, and no more highly respected physician or citizen ever resided in the county, and his hosts of friends are glad of the continued confidence and respect shown him by his co-workers.

B. F. Shuff, of Hutchinson, has purchased the Purify Tea and Coffee establishment in this city, which for some time has been under the management of J. P. Smith, and has taken charge of the business.